

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing  
February 26, 2019  
Testimony of Anthony Cavalli

on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 488 Regarding  
House Bill 7055, AN ACT CREATING THE CONNECTICUT GAMING COMMISSION AND  
CREATING A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR A RESORT-CASINO.

Chairman Bradley, Chairman Verrengia, Vice Chair Osten, Vice Chair Paolillo, Ranking  
Member Sredzinski, Ranking Member Hwang and members of the Public Safety and Security  
Committee,

I am member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 488. I  
am submitting this testimony on behalf of IBEW Local 488 in strong support of House Bill 7055,  
An Act creating the Connecticut Gaming Commission and creating a competitive bidding  
process for a resort-casino.

Competitive bidding for a resort-casino in the state will offer the best scenario for our state and  
the communities where it would be built. By establishing a Gaming Commission and creating a  
competitive bidding process, we can update our existing gaming laws and increase revenue to  
our state.

MGM Bridgeport's proposed plan is a terrific case in point. 7,000 jobs for the city and the region  
at no cost to taxpayers. Not less than \$8 million annually to Bridgeport, benefits to neighboring  
communities and an investment of \$12 million in workforce development. However, while  
MGM is leading the way in this legislative process, this bill will only offer MGM, and  
competitors, a path to an open bidding process for the best possible project.

The construction of a resort casino would create great middle-class opportunities for our current  
tradespeople and continue to allow apprenticeship programs to train our communities for the  
future; all with decent wages, healthcare, retirement benefits, pride, and dignity on and off the  
job.

As with all projects of this magnitude, to also have a labor neutrality agreement with organized  
labor will ensure top wages and benefits are paid, as well as safe and favorable conditions exist  
through the duration of construction. All this in turn will have a positive economic impact on the  
region. Through putting local men and women to work, their wages will be spent back in the  
communities that they live in, supporting local business and allowing those communities to  
thrive.

I would strongly urge the Committee to pass House Bill 7055 and encourage the growth of  
Connecticut's share of the U.S. gaming market.

Thank you for your consideration.